

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Linda J. Sutton
CHAIR

Frank M. Dickerson
SECRETARY

Jerry D. Jordan
MEMBER



Robert H. Coffman
Director of Elections

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

Present: Linda J. Sutton, Chair
Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary
Jerry D. Jordan, Member

Staff: Rob Coffman, Director of Elections
Lamar Joyner, Deputy Director of Elections
Judy Speas, Office Assistant

Guests: Fleming El Amin, Chairman, FC Democrat Party
Wes Young, WS Journal
Phillip Carter, North Ward Candidate

Call to Order

Ms. Sutton called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM in the Board of Elections Conference room.

Oath of Office

Frank M. Dickerson was sworn into office as a new member of the Board of Elections by Judy Speas, Notary Public.

Leadership Selection

Ms. Sutton called for nominations for leadership of the Forsyth County Board of Elections. Mr. Dickerson moved to nominate Ms. Sutton to act as Chairman of the Forsyth County Board of Elections. The motion passed with Mr. Jordan dissenting. Ms. Sutton moved to nominate Mr. Dickerson to act as Secretary of the Forsyth County Board of Elections. The motion passed with Mr. Jordan dissenting.

Approval of Minutes - August 25, 2009

The Board reviewed the minutes for August 25, 2009. Ms. Sutton requested a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously and the Board signed the August 4 and August 25, 2009 minutes.

Approval of Absentee Ballots

Mr. Coffman discussed the absentee ballot process and the Board's responsibility to review returned absentee ballots at the Absentee meetings. The Staff

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recommended one absentee ballot for approval and zero for disapproval for the September 1, 2009 board meeting date. The Board canceled that meeting because of the mandatory State Board of Elections meeting in Raleigh. The Staff recommended three absentees for approval and zero for disapproval for the September 8, 2009 meeting date. Ms. Sutton requested a motion to approve the absentee ballots. Mr. Dickerson moved to approve all absentee ballots as recommended by staff. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Mr. Coffman reviewed the office budget by presenting the Forsyth County Financial Analysis report. Amount totals were low as all staff positions are not filled. The Board reviewed One Stop totals; 431 voters had voted as of that morning's report.

Ms. Sutton discussed several topics that were highlighted at the State Board of Elections meeting in Raleigh on September 1 and 2. The possibility of adopting a Memorandum of Understanding document was discussed. Mr. Coffman stated that this document which would describe the relationship agreement that the Board of Elections has with the county and state governments has not been used. Ms. Sutton requested that the Board pursue the use of a Memorandum of Understanding document in order to outline this multilateral agreement. It was decided to discuss this at a future date.

Ms. Sutton questioned the National Change of Address process. Mr. Coffman stated that he would receive clarification of whether this process is mandated.

Ms. Sutton questioned the upcoming procedure of pre-registration of sixteen year old voters in North Carolina. Mr. Coffman explained that a method would be adopted statewide as of December 31, 2009 to pre-register these voters and mail voter cards prior to their first election. Possible administrative and budget problems were discussed. Ms. Sutton stated that the Kids Voting program may unite with education of the new registration process.

Ms. Sutton stated that the State Board of Elections meeting discussed the upcoming Census. The census tracking information will aid in the formation of precinct structure and voting tabulation district changes. These changes will possibly cause redistricting issues for several elected offices.

Ms. Sutton stated that the Duties of Director of Elections document would be discussed at a later date after all board members had reviewed it. Mr. Coffman stated that any correspondence given to the Board members would be sent through their email accounts.

A complaint at Early Voting was discussed where a voter's address was not in the correct ward. After researching the problem, it was found that the voter's ward had changed because of an address change. Mr. Coffman stated that ward boundaries were recently reviewed this year. Changes were made to match new boundaries from annexation, etc.

Ms. Sutton stated that Evelyn Terry, Southeast Ward Council Member, had expressed concerns regarding a Southeast ward precinct's accessibility problem.

Mr. Coffman stated that all precincts are ADA compliant; however, a survey of possible alternative locations would be made to be able to discuss a precinct move. The findings would be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Sutton discussed that a Hospitality Day event at the county boards of elections was suggested at the State Board of Elections training seminar.

Ms. Sutton stated that Early Voting would begin on October 15 for the Municipal General Election. The Board discussed that the possibility of additional One Stop sites would be reviewed at the next meeting on September 16, 2009 at noon. Ms. Sutton stated that the Board should encourage voter turnout with additional sites if possible. The cost of additional sites would be weighed against the fact that a 9-10% turnout is expected. Mr. Coffman plans to discuss this information with the City of Winston-Salem officials before the next meeting in order that reimbursement may be planned.

Mr. Coffman stated that plans for the City of Winston-Salem Primary election are completed. Equipment tests, delivery plans and staffing are completed for the 65 precincts participating.

Mr. Jordan discussed that the use of electronic poll books should begin at the precincts with next year's election. Mr. Coffman also stated that the E poll books would be useful in uploading data for voter history after an election. Costs were discussed for the new equipment.

Mr. Fleming El-Amin questioned when wards were realigned. Mr. Coffman discussed that ward changes began in 2006 and that voters had received new registration cards when changed. Mr. Dickerson questioned the placement of precinct and ward boundaries as there is a large size difference in several precincts.

Adjournment

Ms. Sutton requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Jordan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Linda J. Sutton, Chair

Frank M. Dickerson, Secretary

Jerry D. Jordan, Member